

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

In analysing the novel *Little Women* by using Simone de Beauvoir's theory of existentialist feminism. According to de Beauvoir, a woman ought to be free to pursue her dreams and be in charge of her own life. This idea had a big influence on the feminist movement and was groundbreaking for its time. De Beauvoir mentioned that a woman's surroundings during her life have a significant impact on who she becomes. It follows that in order to become a woman, a person must be able to recognize and capitalize on her own special talents and potential. In this novel, 30 data were found for the struggles and obstacles carried out by women to achieve existence.

The female characters analysed are March's sister and Marmee. There are several struggles carried out by women to show their existence by working, becoming intellectual, and rejecting otherness. There are 9 data for women to get work, 6 data for intellectuals, and 3 data for reject "liyan" or otherness. To get their own existence, the first struggle is working. As Jo, Meg, and Marmee are working to fulfil their own financial goals, it is also the way for them to achieve their existence in the public sector. Second, by being intellectual. To express themselves and avoid being dominated by men, women need to be intelligent to realize their own potential. By realizing their own potential, they can do productive things and create their own existence. Third, by rejecting "liyan" or otherness. The struggle that women should do to achieve existence is to reject being "liyan." They should

be themselves as women and do what they want to do. By doing so, they can achieve their existence in society.

Apart from the struggle of women, there are obstacles experienced by female characters in carrying out the struggle to achieve existence. The obstacles are mostly from society, which is found in the novel: 10 data for perspective from society and 2 data for self-fear of society's perspective. Where the views of society make women not free to do whatever they want because of the cultural perspective that indeed in the 19th century required women to be graceful, elegant, wear dresses, not rude, quiet, submissive, and other views that harmed women and limited women's movement at that time. In addition, these societal views made women afraid to confront society with their behaviour. This perspective from society makes women unable to get their own existence and realize their own potential, as well as gender equality.

5.2 Recommendations

There are limitations and problems when writing this research. The first problem encountered was collecting data related to character due to limited research time. In addition, there are also limitations in analysing the data found. The researcher in this study only analysed 30 data; it is hoped that other researchers can find and analyse different data. Moreover, this research was limited to focusing on the theory of existentialist feminism to analyse the women's struggles and the obstacles to achieving their existence in the "Little Women" novel.

The novel "Little Women" combines several genres, such as romance, children's and young adult literature, and coming-of-age stories. This book recounts

the story of the March Sisters coming-of-age, they have to navigate social possibilities and obstacles on their way to maturity while maintaining their integrity as real people. The goals, aspirations, and first loves of March are revealed to the readers. Therefore, the researcher recommends to other researchers as future researchers who want to analyse the story of “Little Women” by using the moral approach proposed by Dr. Samuel Johnson to analyse the moral values in this story. Because when reading this novel, readers can feel the warmth that exists in this family and then see how they overcome all the problems that exist. Many messages can be taken and analysed in this novel; for example, persistent work will produce sweet results in the end.

In addition, the researcher also recommends other researchers analyse this novel using Abraham Maslow's theory, namely analysing the hierarchy needs of the characters. It can be seen in this novel that there are many desires that cannot be fulfilled by the characters. Like Beth, who is shy and does not dare to leave the house, there must be a reason why she does it; there could be things that threaten her out there so that her safety needs are not fulfilled. In the case of Jo, who does not believe in the words love and marriage, it could be that her love or belonging needs towards her partner are not fulfilled. There are many other things about hierarchy needs that can be used as thesis topics. That is all the recommendations from the researcher. The researcher hopes that these recommendations can be used as research topics for future researchers who really want to analyse the novel “Little Women.”